

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).)

The decisions take effect at the time and date specified, unless before that time written notice is given in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules requiring the decision to be called in for review by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

If you have a query please contact Chris Reynolds (Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: [chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

### **CABINET - TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024**

<i>List published 20 March 2024 Decisions will (unless called in) become effective at 5.00pm on 27 March 2024</i>		
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<b>1. Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Levy.	DLG (A Newman)
<b>2. Declarations of Interest</b>  - guidance note below	There were none.	
<b>3. Minutes</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.	DLG (C Reynolds)
<b>4. Questions from County Councillors</b>	See annex.	
<b>5. Petitions and Public Address</b>	There were no requests received.	
<b>6. Appointments</b>	There were none to report.	
<b>7. Reports from Scrutiny Committees</b>	There were no reports and recommendations from Scrutiny Committees to be considered at this meeting.	

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>8. Commercial Strategy</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Cabinet Member for Finance  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2024/022  <i>Contact:</i> Ian Dyson, Director of Finance Services (<a href="mailto:Ian.Dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk">Ian.Dyson@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>)</p> <p>Report by Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer</p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to approve the Commercial Strategy</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>EDR ( I Dyson)</p>
<p><b>9. Treasury Management Quarter 3 Performance Report (2023/24)</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2023/277  <i>Contact:</i> Tim Chapple, Treasury Manager, <a href="mailto:tim.chapple@oxfordshire.gov.uk">tim.chapple@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer (CA9).</p> <p><b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to note the council's treasury management activity at the end of the third quarter of 2023/24.</b></p>	<p>Recommendations approved.</p>	<p>EDR (T Chapple)</p>
<p><b>10. Business Management &amp; Monitoring Report - January 2024</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Corporate Services and Finance  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2023/278  <i>Contact:</i> Louise Tustian, Head of Insight and Corporate Programmes, <a href="mailto:louise.tustian@oxfordshire.gov.uk">louise.tustian@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> / Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy, <a href="mailto:kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk">kathy.wilcox@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by Director of Finance (CA10).</p>		

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) note the report and annexes.</li> <li>b) note the virements in Annex 2b</li> <li>c) approve the supplementary estimate request of £0.2m as set out in paragraph 92 of Annex B.</li> <li>d) approve the eleven debt write offs totalling £0.2m as set out in paragraph 122 of Annex B.</li> </ul>	Recommendations approved.	EDR ( K Wilcox)
<p><b>11. Capital Programme Update and Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><i>Cabinet Member:</i> Finance  <i>Forward Plan Ref:</i> 2023/276  <i>Contact:</i> Natalie Crawford, Capital Programme Manager,  <a href="mailto:natalie.crawford@oxfordshire.gov.uk">natalie.crawford@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Report by the Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer <b>(CA11)</b></p> <p><b>The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Capital Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Accept the latest capital monitoring position for 2023/24 set out in Annex 1.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Approve the updated Capital Programme at Annex 2 incorporating the changes set out in this report.</b></li> </ul> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Budget Changes / Budget Release</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <b>approve the inclusion of a programme of work to replace prefabricated classrooms with</b></li> </ul>	Recommendations approved.	EDR ( N Crawford)

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RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p>permanent provision at North Hinksey CE Primary School into the Capital Programme, at a cost of £1.443m to be funded by s106 developer contributions, the remaining cost of the scheme will be met by the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (paragraph 49)</p> <p>4. approve the inclusion of the expansion of Mabel Prichard Special School into the capital programme with an indicative budget of £2.230m to be funded from the Special Educational Needs (SEN) High Needs capital allocation 2021/22-2023/24 (paragraph 50).</p> <p>5. approve an increase in budget of £3.6m from £6.897m to £10.497m for the Tramway Road Accessibility Improvement scheme. The increase in budget is funded through the Housing &amp; Growth Deal and was agreed as part of the latest Growth Deal Programme review exercise, included in the Capital Programme approved at Council on 20 February 2024 (paragraph 52).</p>		

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<p>6. <b>approve the inclusion of Redbridge Household &amp; Recycling Centre (HWRC) stabilisation works into the capital programme at a cost of £1.400m to be funded by corporate resources, of which £0.7m was agreed by Cabinet on 21 February 2023 and a further £0.7m agreed on 27 February 2024 (paragraph 54).</b></p> <p>7. <b>to note the release of an initial development budget of £1.813m to redevelop Speedwell House (paragraph 56).</b></p> <p>8. <b>To approve the inclusion of the £3.1m Decarbonisation Grant into the capital programme and the release of a total budget provision of £8.2m to commence carbon reduction measures in the Council property portfolio to progress measures towards the 2030 Climate Action Framework (paragraph 58).</b></p>		

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<b>12. Forward Plan and Future Business</b>	Noted.	
<b>13. For information only: Cabinet response to Scrutiny items</b>  Capital Asset Disposal Process City Centre Accommodation Strategy Employee Engagement Strategy Social Value	Noted.	

**CABINET – 19 MARCH 2024**

**ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

<p><b>1. COUNCILLOR STEFAN GAWRYSIAK</b></p> <p>'Here is an FOI request to the ICB and Dr Nick Broughton Chief Executive of the ICB BOB.</p> <p>He clearly states that the Chiltern Court Beds were funded by the NHS, continue to be funded by the NHS and that their status as NHS beds has not changed. As John Howell MP has stated that the beds were NHS then their removal warrants and needs a consultation.</p> <p>"</p> <p>The beds have not 'lost NHS funding'. At the point of the contract variation in Dec 2016 the beds were funded from the pooled budget between the Council and the CCG."</p> <p>Therefore</p> <p>Q1 - As they are NHS Beds then reinstate them and if you can prove the need for their removal then institute a consultation for removal?</p> <p>Q2 - Please confirm that there are no short stay Hub beds in South Oxfordshire and justify why that is the case. Why are these beds not geographically spread throughout Oxfordshire?'</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b></p> <p>Q1 - The Council contracts for a number of services that are joint funded with the NHS through our s75 NHS Act pooled budget arrangements.</p> <p>In this specific instance the Council was asked in 2016 to vary its contract with Order of St John Care Trust to include 7 additional beds at Chiltern Court as short stay hub beds</p> <p>The beds were contracted by the Council, jointly funded by the Council and the NHS and overseen clinically and operationally by the multidisciplinary team hosted by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>The Council is acting on behalf of and in agreement with the wider health and care to reduce short stay hub beds in line with national policy and our local commitment to enable more people to go directly home when they are discharged from hospital.</p> <p>The Council therefore negotiated with OSJ to close the remaining Chiltern Court beds and that came into effect 31/12/23</p> <p>The Council's position is that it did not and does not need to consult on this change which is operational/contractual business as usual. There is no plan to reinstate the beds.</p> <p>The question of whether this change amounts to a service change that would meet the threshold for formal NHS consultation should be directed to the ICB. The ICB has been fully involved in the processes set out above.</p> <p>Q2 - The Council contracts <b>15</b> short stay hub beds in a care home in the South Oxfordshire DC area at Burcot.</p> <p>The short stay hub beds contracted by the Council since Nov 2019 are distributed across the county in</p>
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Banbury, Chipping Norton, the City and Burcot (as above). The beds commissioned in November 2019 were procured by the Council on the open market in line with legislation and regulations.

The tender was open to any interested care home on our Dynamic Purchasing System but the short stay hub model carries specific operating requirements of care homes and not all homes could or would want to bid for the business.

Contracts were awarded on the basis of quality and price as well as ensuring that there was a care home in each of the following zones:

- Central (covering Oxford City);
- North (covering Cherwell and West Oxfordshire DC areas); and
- South (covering Vale of White Horse and South Oxon DC areas).

The procurement succeeded in purchasing beds against this plan.

<p><b>2. COUNCILLOR TRISH ELPHINSTONE</b></p> <p>On two occasions, over a whole month, I wrote to the Resident Support Scheme to follow up an application for funding to replace a key appliance for a resident who is on universal credit. I did not get a response from either email. Neither has the Rose Hill Advice Centre who initially put forward the claim on behalf of the resident. As I understand it, help can be offered in some circumstances with white goods for emergency need.</p> <p>The resident was refused help on the grounds that they should have saved in advance. As outlined in the email from the Rose Hill Advice Centre, the appliance has unexpectedly broken down and there is no way that this resident could have pre-empted or saved under their financial situation. This was emergency and not a case of wear and tear.</p> <p>I would like to ask under what</p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR NATHAN LEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, INEQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY</b></p> <p>Can I first apologise if Cllr Elphinstone did not get the response she should have had. Officers will follow up with the relevant team to investigate why a response was not forthcoming. I have also asked Cllr Elphinstone for the specific details of this case so that we can get on and investigate the individual case prior to cabinet and provide a further response. The scheme does deal with applications and enquiries promptly. Applications for cash equivalent support are dealt with within 24 hours, and those for tangible goods within 10 days. Less than 5% of calls are abandoned.</p> <p>The Resident Support Scheme (RSS) was launched on 1 June 2023, and has so far supported 3,363 households with support packages worth £689,809.29.</p> <p>Unlike national benefit programmes, the RSS budget is cash limited and while need is extensive, the RSS necessarily needs to have a relatively high-bar for applications or it will run out of funding during the year and have to close, as has consistently happened with previous mechanisms for distributing emergency funding. There is therefore a financial assessment of each applicant. Each circumstance is unique and there is an appeals process and a mechanism for escalating</p>
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circumstances is help given from the Resident's Support Scheme to replace white goods under the current guidelines and can we get a formal response from Oxfordshire Residents Support Scheme to this case please?  
I have the case reference number available for the Cabinet Member if appropriate.

issues of need that the policies are not meeting. There have been 320 such appeals submitted, of which 170 have been successful

The scheme is still within its first year and so we are learning whether our policies are right and whether they are helping us get the support needed to those who need it most. As such we are grateful for all feedback and the support from voluntary sector advice agencies, including the Rose Hill Advice Centre.